Art Unit: 3748 Examiner: Hoang M. Nguyen Serial No.: 10/562,165

Serial No.: 10/562,165 Docket No.: 02207-25610.PCT.US

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) Steam cycle with a steam generator, adapted to have thermal energy transferred to an <u>a water-based</u> operating medium and a power engine adapted to convert the thermal energy comprised in the operating medium to mechanical energy, characterized in that the operating medium <u>additionally</u> contains at least one heterocyclic compound, especially a <u>heterocyclic aromatic compound</u>.

- 2. (original) Steam cycle according to claim 1, characterized in that the operating medium is a mixture containing water and heterocyclic aromatic compounds, water being contained in an amount between 5 and 95 percent by weight and the heterocyclic compound in an amount between 5 and 95 percent by weight.
- 3. (original) Steam cycle according to claim 2, characterized in that the operating medium additionally contains one or more polymers which are mixable with water, surfactant and/or other organic lubricants.
- 4. (currently amended) Steam cycle according to claim 3, characterized in that the operating medium contains a heterocyclic compound selected from the group consisting of 2-methyl pyridine, 3-methyl pyridine, pyridine, pyridine, pyridine, pyridine as a heterocyclic compound, and combinations thereof.
- 5. (currently amended) Steam cycle according to claim 3, characterized in that the polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, or a polyphenyl, especially terphenyl, and combinations thereof.
- 6. (currently amended) Use of Steam cycle according to claim 1, wherein the operating medium includes a heterocyclic aromatic compound, especially including 2-methyl pyridine, in an operating medium for a steam cycle according to one of the above claims.

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7. (currently amended) Steam cycle according to claim 2, characterized in that the

operating medium contains a heterocyclic compound selected from the group consisting of 2-

methyl pyridine, 3-methyl pyridine, pyridine, pyrrole, and/or pyridazine as a heterocyclic

compound, and combinations thereof.

8. (currently amended) Steam cycle according to claim 1, characterized in that the

operating medium contains a heterocyclic compound selected from the group consisting of 2-

methyl pyridine, 3-methyl pyridine, pyridine, pyridine, pyridazine as-a heterocyclic

compound, and combinations thereof.

9. (original) Steam cycle according to claim 1, characterized in that the operating

medium additionally contains one or more polymers which are mixable with water, surfactant

and/or other organic lubricants.

10. (new) Steam cycle according to claim 1, wherein the heterocyclic compound is a

heterocyclic aromatic compound.

11. (new) A steam cycle with a steam generator, adapted to have thermal energy

transferred to a water-based operating medium and a power engine adapted to convert the

thermal energy comprised in the operating medium to mechanical energy, the water based

operating medium comprising:

a) water;

b) at least one heterocyclic compound; and

b) a lubricant selected from the group consisting of a water-mixable polymer, a

water-mixable surfactant, a water-mixable organic lubricant, a water-mixable inorganic

lubricant, and combinations thereof.

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